

NORTH CAROLINA



COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

QUESTIONS PERTINENT TO THIS ISSUE

2. WERE FARM WAGE RATES HIGHER ON OCTOBER 1 THAN A YEAR EARLIER?
3. WHAT IS THE ESTIMATED PRODUCTION OF MONEY IN 1950?
4. WHAT FARM COMMODITIES DECREASED IN PRICE DURING THE MONTH ENDED OCTOBER 15?
5. DID THE INDEX OF PRICES RECEIVED INCREASE OR DECREASE AS OF OCTOBER 15?
6. DID THE INDEX OF PRICES PAID BY U.S. FARMERS INCREASE OR DECREASE?
7. WHAT IS THE TREND IN COST OF FOOD PURCHASED BY FARMERS?
8. WHAT FOOD ITEMS INCREASED THE MOST IN COST?
9. DID FEED PRICES INCREASE OR DECREASE DURING THE MONTH?

No. 72

RALEIGH, N. C.

NOVEMBER 3, 1950

## AGRICULTURAL PRICES AND OTHER CURRENT ITEMS

GENERAL PRICE SUMMARY  
MONTH ENDED OCTOBER 15, 1950

The "All Farm Products" index of prices received by North Carolina farmers at local markets decreased from 334 as of September 15 to 330 as of October 15. Four of the 7 groups of commodities, making up the index, decreased during the month. The index of prices received for grains, tobacco, meat animals and miscellaneous commodities decreased during the month ended October 15 (See page 2). The cotton and cottonseed, poultry and dairy products indexes increased during the same period.

Most of the high grade protein and grain by-products feeds purchased by farmers declined from 5 to 10 cents per hundred weight during the month ended October 15.

Practically all of the food items purchased by farmers were higher on September 15 than on June 15, 1950 or September 15, 1949 (See page 3).

## FARM WAGE RATES HIGHER

Wage rates for hired farm workers in North Carolina were higher on October 1 than a year earlier. The per day rate with house furnished increased 10 cents per day while the per day rate without board or room increased 15 cents. The hourly rate averaged 50 cents as of October 1, one cent above a year ago.

1950 HONEY PRODUCTION  
SECOND LOWEST SINCE 1945

Based on reports from beekeepers in North Carolina, including farm and non-farm apiaries, honey production in 1950, estimated at 3,515,000 pounds, is well above the "bad year" of 1949.

Even so, this will be the second smallest take of honey since 1945 when a record low of 2,124,000 pounds was taken.

Due to several adverse conditions such as a mild winter, late spring freezes, low prices, etc., a loss of several colonies was experienced this year. A total of 185,000 colonies is currently estimated for this year. This is a decline of over 2 percent from a total of 189,000 colonies in 1949.

Yield per colony is estimated at 19 pounds compared with 13 pounds in 1949. Yield this year was below normal and was the second lowest since 1945. Due to late spring freezes, and a prolonged period of rainy weather during mid-July the spring and early summer honey flow was far short of normal.

(Continued on page 4)

SEPTEMBER HATCHINGS SET  
RECORD FOR MONTH

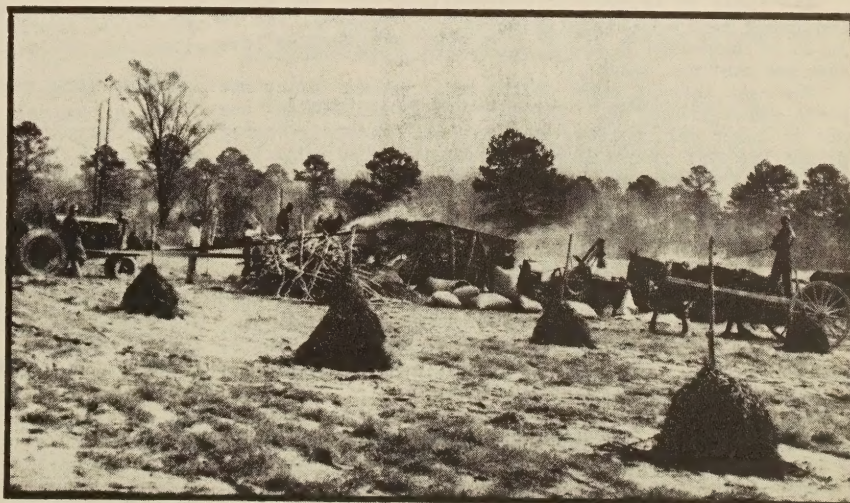
North Carolina hatcheries produced 3,495,000 chicks during September to set a new record output for the month. Hatchings during September compare with 1,877,000 chicks produced during the same month a year ago -- an increase of 86 percent, and were 248 percent above the 5 year (1944-48) average production of 1,004,000 chicks.

September hatchery production exceeded that of August for the first time since records have been kept. Output during September was 6 percent above production during August, which also set a record for the month.

Demand for broiler chicks continued strong during the month in the non-commercial as well as the commercial producing areas.

During the first nine months of 1950, North Carolina hatcheries produced a total of 43,463,000 chicks -- almost 6 million more than the number of chicks hatched during the same period last year.

## THRESHING OF PEANUT CROP UNDERWAY

DAILY AND HOURLY FARM WAGE RATES N. C.  
AND SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES COMPARED

AND SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES COMPARED		
AREA AND CLASSIFICATION	OCT. 1 1949	OCT. 1 1950
<u>NORTH CAROLINA</u>		
PER DAY:		
WITH HOUSE.....	\$3.50	\$3.60
WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM.	4.20	4.35
PER HOUR:		
WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM.	.49	.50
<u>SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES</u>		
PER DAY:		
WITH HOUSE.....	3.35	3.40
WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM.	4.00	4.10
PER HOUR:		
WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM.	.49	.51



PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS OCTOBER 15, 1950  
WITH COMPARISONS

COMMODITY	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA		U. S.
		SEPTEMBER 15 1950	OCTOBER 15 1950	OCTOBER 15 1950
- DOLLARS -				
CORN.....	BU.	1.70	1.47	1.37
WHEAT.....	BU.	2.15	2.14	1.91
OATS.....	BU.	.92	.97	.735
BARLEY.....	BU.	1.42	1.48	1.12
RYE.....	BU.	2.32	2.44	1.27
SOYBEANS.....	BU.	2.13	2.00	2.03
COWPEAS.....	BU.	4.40	4.15	3.52
PEANUTS.....	LB.	.118	.118	.107
TOBACCO				
TYPES 11-37.....		.558	.553	.551
COTTON.....	LB.	.40	.40	.389
COTTONSEED.....	TON	73.00	80.00	81.50
WOOL.....	LB.	.51	.53	.645
HOGS.....	CWT.	21.40	19.00	19.20
BEEF CATTLE.....	CWT.	20.60	20.60	24.30
VEAL CALVES.....	CWT.	26.60	26.90	27.50
SHEEP.....	CWT.	11.20	12.00	12.80
LAMBS.....	CWT.	24.70	25.00	25.80
MILK COWS.....	HEAD	152.00	147.00	209.00
CHICKENS.....	LB.	.276	.249	.227
EGGS.....	DOZ.	.494	.52	.432
MILK, WHLSE.....	CWT.	4.80 <i>b</i>	4.95 <i>a</i>	4.23 <i>a</i>
RETAIL.....	QT.	.202	.207	.190
BUTTER.....	LB.	.55	.55	.58
BUTTERFAT.....	LB.	.52	.55	.628
HAY, ALL BALED.....	TON	27.50	28.60	20.60
POTATOES.....	BU.	1.55	1.45	.858
SWEET POTATOES.....	BU.	2.20	1.70	1.54
APPLES COMMERCIAL.....	BU.	1.70	1.40	1.98
LESPEDEZA SEED.....	CWT.	9.60	9.40	7.98
KOREAN.....	CWT.	7.50	7.30	.
KOBE.....	CWT.	11.40	11.30	.
COM. & TENN. 76.....	CWT.	18.30	17.80	.
SERICEA.....	CWT.	19.50	19.00	.

*a* Preliminary  
*b* Revised

N. C. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX DOWN 4 POINTS

The "All Farm Products" index of prices received by North Carolina farmers at local markets decreased 4 points during the month ended October 15. The current "All Farm Products" index at 330 compares with 334 in September, 275 on October 15, 1949 and 292 on October 15, 1948.

The grains commodity index decreased 24 points due to a seasonal decrease of 23 cents per bushel in average prices received for corn and a decrease of one cent per bushel for wheat. Oats, barley and rye increased in price.

The cotton and cottonseed index increased from 315 to 318. Cotton at 40 cents per pound remained the same but cottonseed increased \$7.00 per ton.

The index of tobacco prices declined from 436 as of September 15 to 433 as of October 15. Types 11 and 13 tobaccos decreased in price while Type 12 increased less than one cent per pound.

The meat animals index decreased 14 points during the month ended October 15. The decrease in this index was due to lower prices received for hogs. Slightly higher prices for veal calves, sheep and lambs were not sufficient to offset the decrease in hog prices.

The poultry index increased 2 points as a result of egg prices increasing from 49 to 52 cents per dozen.

The dairy products index increased 6 points due to a rise in milk and butterfat prices.

Lower prices which farmers received for soybeans, cowpeas, potatoes, sweetpotatoes and apples resulted in a drop of 20 points in the miscellaneous products index.

The ratio of prices received by N. C. farmers to prices paid by U. S. farmers stood at 126 on October 15 as compared with 128 on September 15.

The index of prices received by U. S. farmers also decreased 4 points during the month ended October 15.

U. S. storage stocks of dressed turkeys September 1 were 39 million pounds; 21 million pounds year earlier; '45-49 average, 30 million pounds.

COMPARISON OF U. S. PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS  
AND PARITY PRICES

COMMODITY	PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS		PARITY OR COMPARABLE PRICES		AVERAGE PRICES AS PERCENTAGE OF PARITY	
	SEPT. 15 1950	OCT. 15 1950	SEPT. 15 1950	OCT. 15 1950	SEPT. 15 1950	OCT. 15 1950
- DOLLARS -						
COTTON, LB.....	.40	.389	.317 <i>b</i>	.319	126 <i>b</i>	122
WHEAT, BU.....	1.94	1.91	2.26	2.27	86	84
CORN, BU.....	1.44	1.37	1.64	1.65	88	83
OATS, BU.....	.728	.735	.96 <i>c</i>	.978 <i>a</i>	75 <i>b</i>	75
BARLEY, BU.....	1.14	1.12	1.50 <i>c</i>	1.51 <i>c</i>	76 <i>b</i>	74
RYE, BU.....	1.29	1.27	1.75 <i>c</i>	1.76 <i>c</i>	74	72
BEEF CATTLE, CWT.	24.70	24.30	17.70	17.70	140	137
HOGS, CWT.....	21.10	19.20	19.60	19.60	108	98
LAMBS, CWT.....	25.60	25.60	19.50	19.50	131 <i>b</i>	132
CHICKENS, LB.....	.245	.227	.298	.298	82 <i>b</i>	76
EGGS, DOZ.....	.404	.432	.522 <i>c</i>	.525 <i>c</i>	70 <i>a</i>	70 <i>a</i>
MILK, WHLSE, CWT.	4.01 <i>b</i>	4.23 <i>a</i>	4.52	4.52	86 <i>b</i>	88 <i>a</i>

*a* Preliminary  
*b* Revised  
*c* Transitional parity, 95 percent of parity prices computed under formula in use prior to January 1, 1950  
*d* Percentage of seasonally adjusted prices to parity prices

U. S. PRICES RECEIVED DROP SLIGHTLY  
U. S. PARITY RATIO DOWN

Sharp declines in hog prices, together with more moderate drops in prices of most crops, lowered the U. S. Index of Prices Received by Farmers 4 points, or over 1 percent from a month earlier, to 268 percent of its 1910-14 base period. For the first time in 9 months the average price received by farmers for cotton was below a month earlier. Dairy products and eggs were up as is usual for this time of year. Rice, cottonseed, sheep, and wool were other commodities showing sizable price increases during the month ended in mid-October.

At the same time, the Parity Index held steady at the revised September level 261 percent of the 1910-14 base. Increases in prices for consumer goods and for building materials, feeder cattle, and lambs were generally offset by lower prices for feed and downturns in farm wage rates.

As a result of the decline in the Index of Prices Received by U. S. Farmers, the Parity Ratio declined from 104 in September to 103 as of mid-October.

U. S. farmers averaged about 40 cents for eggs mid-September compared with 52 cents year ago. Prices were 38 cents in mid-August.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS  
(N.C. PRICES RECEIVED 1909-14 = 100 PERCENT)

COMMODITY	SEPT. 15 1950	OCT. 15 1950	OCT. 15 1949	OCT. 15 1948	OCT. 15 1947
NORTH CAROLINA INDEX NUMBERS					
ALL FARM PRODUCTS..	334	330	275	292	282
COTTON & COTTONSEED	315	318	226	245	260
GRAINS.....	194	170	164	189	245
MEAT ANIMALS.....	399	385	331	395	358
POULTRY.....	250	252	283	296	309
DAIRY PRODUCTS.....	224	230	229	247	231
TOBACCO.....	436	433	381	397	336
MISCELLANEOUS.....	229	209	216	222	227
RATIO OF PRICES RECEIVED TO PAID..	128 <i>b</i>	126	115	117	118
UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS					
PRICES RECEIVED....	272	268	243	277	289
PRICES PAID	261 <i>b</i>	261	240	249	239
INTEREST & TAXES..					
RATIO OF PRICES RECEIVED TO PAID..	104 <i>b</i>	103	101	111	121

*a* Ratio of N. C. prices received to U. S. prices paid.  
*b* Revised.



## AVERAGE PRICES PAID BY NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES FARMERS FOR SPECIFIED FOOD ITEMS WITH COMPARISONS, 1949-50

ITEMS	UNIT	UNITED STATES FARMERS FOR SPECIFIED FOOD ITEMS WITH COMPARISONS, 1949-50					
		NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
		JUNE 15 1950	SEPT. 15 1950	SEPT. 15 1949	JUNE 15 1950	SEPT. 15 1950	SEPT. 15 1949
- CENTS -							
SUGAR.....	PER 10 LB.	95.0	105.0	96.0	96.2	104.0	97.7
FLOUR.....	PER 25 LB.	200.0	200.0	190.0	199.0	202.0	192.0
BREAD, WHITE.....	PER LB.	14.8	15.7	14.8	14.1	15.0	14.1
CORN MEAL.....	PER LB.	5.4	6.6	5.2	6.01	7.37	5.71
ROLLED OATS, PACKAGED.....	PER LB.	14.2	14.4	14.0	12.2	12.6	12.3
RICE.....	PER LB.	17.6	17.6	18.4	16.6	16.9	18.1
BACON.....	PER LB.	54.0	63.0	60.0	54.2	63.3	60.6
ROUND STEAK.....	PER LB.	85.0	90.0	78.0	84.7	89.0	77.6
PORK LOIN.....	PER LB.	59.0	-	66.0	66.1	73.4	71.8
LARD.....	PER LB.	19.4	24.8	22.1	18.1	24.3	20.8
BUTTER.....	PER LB.	74.0	75.0	74.0	70.5	71.5	71.5
CHEESE, AMERICAN.....	PER LB.	53.0	54.0	53.0	52.1	53.5	52.4
COFFEE.....	PER LB.	73.0	82.0	51.0	74.2	85.1	53.5
TEA, ORANGE PEKOE.....	PER LB.	125.0	130.0	130.0	129.0	130.0	126.0
ORANGES, 216'S.....	PER DOZ.	42.0	42.0	-	47.4	45.6	-
BANANAS.....	PER LB.	15.1	14.9	14.9	16.9	16.3	17.0
APPLES, FRESH.....	PER LB.	12.5	10.1	10.2	14.1	11.7	9.74

## 1951 AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK

Most farmers will receive higher incomes in 1951 than this year, but production goods, family living and taxes will cost them more.

The outlook for higher incomes stems from: 1. the likelihood that prices of most farm products will average well above 1950 levels, and 2. the prospect that agricultural production will total the largest in history, if the weather is normal.

Prices received by farmers crept upward through most of the first half of this year, then climbed rapidly after the Korean war broke out. By mid-September prices averaged 10 percent higher than in mid-June. The gains so far mean that farmers' prices will be considerably higher than a year earlier as 1951 begins.

Much of the expected boost in farm output will come from meat animals and cotton. Cattle and hog marketings are expected to increase and the cotton crop is likely to be much larger than this year's small output. Smaller increases are expected for other farm commodities.

With prices and production both up, farmers probably will get about 10 percent more from marketings than this year. Since production expenses probably will not go up as much, the net income realized by operators may rise 15 percent or more but probably not to the levels of either 1947 or 1948. And rising prices will hold the purchasing power of farm income below each of those two years.

Behind the prospect for a stronger consumer demand for farm products is the outlook that business and industrial activity will continue at a high rate well into 1952. The economy has been on the upgrade since mid-1949; is now operating at the highest levels in history except for the peak of the World War II effort. Employment and consumer income are at record levels, and will be pushed higher.

Chief factor in the business and industrial outlook is the Defense program. Military spending is now running at an annual rate of about 15 billion dollars. Under the present program, the rate is expected to about double by mid-1951, and will continue to rise in the 1951-52 fiscal year. This will mean more jobs, higher wages, longer hours of work -- and expanding buying power of consumers.

Foreign demand for many U. S. products is also likely to increase, with food a probable exception. We are now importing at the highest rate since the war ended and are likely to buy more abroad as the stockpiling program gains momentum. The additional dollars received by foreign countries from this trade will more than offset reductions in U. S. economic aid. Furthermore, special appropriations for foreign military aid will finance exchange of goods for military uses.

Strengthening in domestic and foreign demand will push upward on prices of most consumer and industrial commodities.

## FOOD PRICES HIGHER

Almost all food items purchased by farmers were higher on September 15, 1950 than on June 15, 1950 or September 15, 1949.

Sugar prices in N. C. increased one cent per pound between June 15 and September 15. The price paid for flour was the same as June 15 but four-tenths of cent above the September 15, 1949 prices.

Rolled oats cost more but the average price paid for rice was the same as June and lower than September 15, 1949. Bacon, round steak and lard were also higher.

Butter and American cheese prices increased an average of one cent per pound from June 15 to September 15. Coffee prices advanced the most. Farmers paid an average of 82 cents per pound on September 15 as compared to 51 cents on September 15, 1949.

Oranges at 42 cents per dozen were unchanged in price, while prices paid for bananas and apples were lower in September 1950 than June 1950.

## MOST FEED PRICES LOWER

Prices paid by North Carolina farmers for most of the high grade protein and grain by-products feeds declined slightly during the month ended October 15. Mixed dairy feeds decreased from 5 to 10 cents per hundredweight. Soybean meal and tankage meat scrap decreased in price while cottonseed meal increased 10 cents per hundredweight. With the exception of middlings, all grain by-products feeds decreased in price. Laying mash and scratch grain also decreased in price.

## FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS OCTOBER 15, 1950

## WITH COMPARISONS

FEED PER HUNDREDWEIGHT	NORTH CAROLINA		UNITED STATES	
	SEPT. 15 1950	OCT. 15 1950	SEPT. 15 1950	OCT. 15 1950
- DOLLARS -				
MIXED DAIRY FEED				
ALL KINDS.....	3.90	3.85	3.74	3.73
18% PROTEIN.....	3.70	3.60	3.64	3.63
18% PROTEIN.....	3.80	3.70	3.75	3.74
20% PROTEIN.....	4.05	4.00	3.82	3.81
HIGH PROTEIN FEEDS				
COTTONSEED MEAL...	3.95	4.05	4.35	4.34
LINSEED MEAL.....	-	-	4.34	4.21
SOYBEAN MEAL.....	4.60	4.30	4.44	4.15
TANKAGE MEAT SCRAP	6.60	6.30	6.75	6.47
GRAIN BY-PRODUCTS				
BRAN.....	3.55	3.50	3.06	2.98
MIDDINGS.....	3.75	3.75	3.28	3.24
CORN MEAL.....	4.65	4.55	3.67	3.63
CORN GLUTIN.....	-	-	3.34	3.31
POULTRY FEED				
LAYING MASH.....	5.00	4.90	4.60	4.54
SCRATCH GRAIN.....	4.45	4.40	4.03	3.99



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NOVEMBER 3, 1950

FARM REPORT

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## HONEY PRODUCTION (Continued)

However, late summer and early fall weather was very favorable to bee activity and in part compensated for the short early season flow.

For the United States as a whole, the 1950 honey crop is now estimated at 234,153,000 pounds -- 3 percent more than last year's crop. This increase in production was attributed mostly to higher per colony yields, particularly in North Central and South Atlantic states.

Estimated stocks of honey on hand for sale in all states by producers in mid-September were 120,274,000 pounds compared with 115,342,000 pounds last year and a 5-year average of 63,744,000 pounds.

# U.S. ALFALFA-SEED PRODUCTION BELOW RECORD 1949 CROP

Although the 1950 crop of alfalfa seed in nearly half the producing States is indicated to be below average, the United States production

may fall only slightly below the record large crop of last year. Production this year is forecast at 1,897,300 bushels (113,838,000 pounds) of thresher-run seed, 3 percent smaller than the 1949 crop of 1,956,700 bushels (117,402,000 pounds) but 46 percent above the 1939-48 average of 1,303,960 bushels (78,237,600 pounds). The sharpest declines from last year are indicated for Kansas, Wisconsin, South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska, Colorado, and Oklahoma. On the other hand, prospective increases are largest in California, New Mexico, Idaho, and Oregon.

It is estimated that 884,200 acres of alfalfa seed will have been harvested by mid-November, the end of the harvesting season. Although acreage this year is indicated to be larger than last year in 11 States, the United States acreage is indicated to be 11 percent smaller than last year's large acreage (995,500) and less than 1 percent larger than the 10-year average of 881,640 acres.

## CASH FARM RECEIPTS DOWN

Cash receipts from farm marketings in North Carolina reached a peak of \$783,091,000 during 1948. Livestock and livestock products accounted for 19.5 percent of the total cash receipts in 1948. Cash receipts during 1949 declined to \$705,646,000 or about 10.0 percent less than 1948. Livestock and livestock products accounted for 20.7 percent of the total cash receipts in 1949.

The seasonal nature of farm marketings and the importance of cash crops is seen from the table below. During both 1948 and 1949 three-fourths of the total cash farm receipts were received from August through December.

Cash receipts during January through July of 1950 are below those during the same months in both 1948 and 1949. If this trend continues during the remainder of 1950, total cash receipts are not likely to exceed \$600,000.000 or about one-fourth less than the peak year of 1948.

CASH RECEIPTS FROM FARM MARKETINGS, BY MONTHS, NORTH CAROLINA, 1948, 1949 AND 1950

MONTH	LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS			CROPS			TOTAL		
	1948	1949	1950 1/	1948	1949	1950 1/	1948	1949	1950 1/
	1,000 DOLLARS	1,000 DOLLARS	1,000 DOLLARS	1,000 DOLLARS	1,000 DOLLARS	1,000 DOLLARS	1,000 DOLLARS	1,000 DOLLARS	1,000 DOLLARS
JANUARY.....	11,267	11,840	7,063	20,562	22,591	12,684	31,829	34,431	19,747
FEBRUARY.....	10,512	10,632	9,609	11,184	9,885	7,267	21,696	20,517	16,876
MARCH.....	11,041	12,255	11,020	11,399	12,177	7,136	22,440	24,432	18,156
APRIL.....	12,075	12,299	10,832	11,628	7,372	6,118	23,703	19,671	16,950
MAY.....	12,583	12,911	12,457	11,317	11,460	7,512	23,900	24,371	19,969
JUNE.....	14,039	12,233	11,698	24,566	17,109	14,420	38,605	29,342	26,118
JULY.....	13,368	12,617	12,885	12,563	10,061	10,092	25,931	22,678	22,977
AUGUST.....	13,866	13,340	*	69,583	75,883	*	83,449	89,223	*
SEPTEMBER.....	14,669	13,043	*	170,815	173,121	*	185,484	186,164	*
OCTOBER.....	14,233	11,871	*	164,524	136,384	*	178,757	148,255	*
NOVEMBER.....	13,227	12,379	*	80,987	55,178	*	94,214	67,557	*
DECEMBER.....	12,114	10,565	*	40,969	28,440	*	53,083	39,005	*
TOTAL	152,994	145,985	*	630,097	559,661	*	783,091	705,646	*

1/ Preliminary  
\* Not available